

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ROME 03852 171624Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 171532Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0079

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

S E C R E T ROME 3852

EXDIS

FROM LODGE

E.O. 16652: ZGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, VS, IT

SUBJECT: VATICAN CONCERN FOR VIETNAM

I CALLED ON ARCHBISHOP CASAROLI, VATICAN "FOREIGN MINISTER",
TODAY. IN DISCUSSION, FOLLOWING POINTS RAISED:

1. VATICAN EVIDENTLY PESSIMISTIC ABOUT VIET NAM EVEN THOUGH
THE APOSTILIC DELEGATE IN SAIGON, MSGR. LE MAITRE, CONSTANTLY
STRESSES THE IMPORTANCE OF SUPPORTING THE GVN. I POINTED OUT
THAT SOME 80 PERCENT OF POPULATION LIVED ON SOME 20 PERCENT
OF THE LAND AND THAT THE LOSS OF LAND IN THE HIGH PLATEAU, FOR
EXAMPLE, WAS NOT FATAL, HOWEVER MUCH IT MADE A BAD IMPRESSION
WHEN WHIPPED UP IN THE MEDIA.
2. CASAROLI ASKED WHETHER THE US HAD A LONG-RANGE VIEW OF WHAT
IT WANTED TO SEE HAPPEN AS REGARDS THE BALANCE OF POWER IN SOUTH-
EAST ASIA. I SAID I THOUGHT USG DID NOT WANT TO SEE VIETNAM
CONQUERED AND DID NOT BELIEVE PEACE COULD BE PROMOTED BY THROWING
SMALL NATIONS TO THE WOLVES.
3. FYI. I EXPECT TO SEE CASAROLI AGAIN IN ABOUT A WEEK AND
WOULD APPRECIATE WHATEVER AMPLIFICATION OF PARA. 2 ABOVE
DEPARTMENT CARES TO SEND ME. VOLPE

SECRET

NNN

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